

- ~~39.~~ An enzymatic nucleic acid molecule which specifically cleaves RNA derived from hepatitis C virus (HCV), wherein said enzymatic nucleic acid molecule does not require the presence of a 2'-OH group within said enzymatic nucleic acid molecule for activity.
40. The enzymatic nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the RNA is derived from the plus strand of HCV.
41. The enzymatic nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the RNA is derived from the minus strand of HCV.
42. The enzymatic nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said enzymatic nucleic acid comprises between 12 and 100 bases complementary to said RNA derived from HCV.
43. The enzymatic nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said enzymatic nucleic acid comprises between 14 and 24 bases complementary to said RNA derived from HCV.
44. A composition comprising the enzymatic nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
45. A mammalian cell comprising the enzymatic nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.
46. The mammalian cell of claim 6, wherein said mammalian cell is a human cell.
47. The enzymatic nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said enzymatic nucleic acid comprises at least one 2'-sugar modification.
48. The enzymatic nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said enzymatic nucleic acid comprises at least one nucleic acid base modification.
49. The enzymatic nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said enzymatic nucleic acid comprises at least one phosphate modification.